



The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Seate Republican Leader
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the more than 2,000 retail member companies of the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS), I am writing to strongly urge you to support and expedite consideration of the bi-partisan proposal of Senator Blanche Lincoln and Senator John Kyl to permanently reform the estate tax by reducing the maximum tax rate to 35 percent and increasing the exemption level to \$5 million. Our members believe strongly that the estate tax is inherently unfair and should be permanently repealed. However, given current conditions, NACS believes that the Lincoln-Kyl proposal represents the best alternative for business owners and the federal government.

Reforming the federal estate tax is crucial for our members. More than 65 percent of the 145,000 retail outlets are owned by families who operate three or fewer stores. Similar to many other family-run businesses in America, the heirs of convenience stores will be forced to either sell or close their family businesses if action is not taken immediately. This tax will not only have a crippling effect on the heirs of convenience stores, but will also severely impact the more than 1.5 million citizens these stores employ.

The convenience store industry evolved from dairy farms providing fresh milk and produce in a timely and convenient manner. Similar to the hard-working farmers across the nation, many of our members work from sun up till sun down in hopes of passing the product of their labor down to their children. Without the repeal of the estate tax, the “American dream” will not be possible for our members and many family-run businesses alike.

Small businesses are the engines of our economy. In these difficult economic times, I strongly urge you to stand up for family businesses across America and pass a permanent estate tax provision that will protect hard-working families and help foster the culture of small business entrepreneurship in the generations to come.

Sincerely,

Corey Fitze
Director, Government Relations

CC: Members of the United State Senate